

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 1 081 955 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
04.10.2001 Bulletin 2001/40

(51) Int Cl. 7: H04N 7/18

(43) Date of publication A2:
07.03.2001 Bulletin 2001/10

(21) Application number: 00307514.0

(22) Date of filing: 31.08.2000

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: 31.08.1999 JP 24619499

(71) Applicant: Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.
Kadoma-shi, Osaka 571-8501 (JP)

(72) Inventors:
• Wada, Jyoji
Yokohama 245-0003 (JP)

• Wakiyama, Koji
Yokohama 227-0063 (JP)
• Ikoma, Ken
Yokohama 225-0023 (JP)
• Kogane, Haruo
Kawasaki 214-0038 (JP)

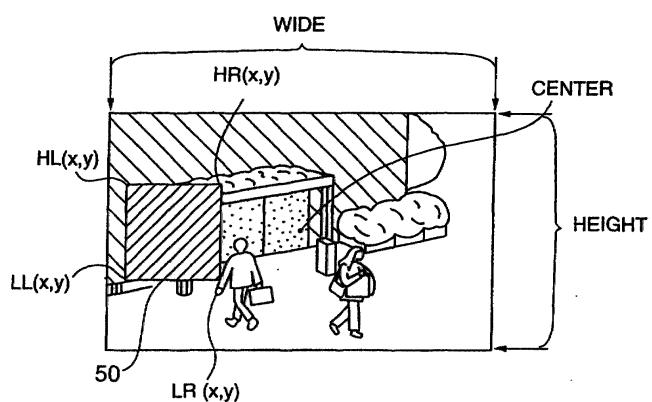
(74) Representative: Senior, Alan Murray
J.A. KEMP & CO.,
14 South Square,
Gray's Inn
London WC1R 5JJ (GB)

(54) Monitor camera system and method of displaying picture from monitor camera thereof

(57) In a monitor camera system comprising a monitor camera making 360-degree panning rotation and more-than 90-degree tilting rotation and a control unit for controlling the monitor camera, for masking a privacy zone in a picture taken by the monitor camera, the control unit sets mask data through the use of a contour parameter of a configuration of a mask zone for covering the privacy zone, while the monitor camera side holds

the mask data to mask a portion of the picture with the mask zone defined on the basis of the mask data. According to this monitor camera system, since only a portion of the picture is masked with the mask zone, it is possible to protect the privacy from the picture taken by the monitor camera without impairing the monitoring function. In addition, since the monitor camera holds the mask data, quick processing becomes feasible.

FIG.1





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 30 7514

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 018, no. 527 (E-1613), 5 October 1994 (1994-10-05) & JP 06 181539 A (M F JOHO SYST KK), 28 June 1994 (1994-06-28) * abstract *	1	H04N7/18
A	---	18	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1996, no. 06, 28 June 1996 (1996-06-28) & JP 08 051611 A (CANON INC), 20 February 1996 (1996-02-20) * abstract *	1	
A	---	18	
X	EP 0 837 605 A (CANON KK) 22 April 1998 (1998-04-22) * column 2, line 41 - column 3, line 13 * * column 5, line 15 - column 6, line 11 * * column 6, line 51 - column 8, line 19; figure 1 * * column 9, line 15 - column 10, line 4; figure 3 * * column 16, line 24 - line 50; figure 13 *	1,2,16	
	---		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			H04N
X	EP 0 729 275 A (CANON KK) 28 August 1996 (1996-08-28) * abstract *	1	
A	---	18	
A	* column 4, line 9 - column 5, line 16 * * column 7, line 30 - column 11, line 50; figures 1-5 *		

A	US 5 808 670 A (KAWAMURA HIDENORI ET AL) 15 September 1998 (1998-09-15) * abstract * * column 1, line 49 - column 2, line 51; figures 1-3 *	1,18	

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	13 August 2001	Fuchs, P	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone	T : theory or principle underlying the invention		
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category	E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date		
A : technological background	D : document cited in the application		
O : non-written disclosure	L : document cited for other reasons		
P : intermediate document	& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 00 30 7514

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

13-08-2001

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 06181539	A	28-06-1994	JP	2661657 B	08-10-1997
JP 08051611	A	20-02-1996		NONE	
EP 0837605	A	22-04-1998	JP	10126670 A	15-05-1998
EP 0729275	A	28-08-1996	JP	8237590 A	13-09-1996
			JP	8289194 A	01-11-1996
			JP	9093573 A	04-04-1997
US 5808670	A	15-09-1998	JP	8223561 A	30-08-1996